

**REMARKS**

The Examiner rejected claims 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Buffet et al. (U.S. Patent 6,631,502). Applicants believe the Examiner intended to reject claims 21-40.

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on April 14, The Examiner stated he would reconsider the claims, if claims 21 and 31 were amended to make the nesting relationships of parent terrain and voltage islands more easily understood.

Applicants have therefore amended claims 21 and 31, to state "voltage islands denoted as  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , said voltage island  $V_1$  nested within said parent terrain  $V_0$  and said voltage island  $V_2$  nested within said voltage island  $V_1$ " for claim 21 and "nesting a voltage island  $V_1$  within said parent terrain  $V_0$  and nesting a voltage island  $V_2$  within said voltage island  $V_1$ " for claim 31.

Applicant point out in FIGs. 1, 2, and 3 of Buffet et al., that while there are two voltage islands ( $V_1$ ) 105 nested within a parent terrain ( $V_0$ ) 120, there is no voltage island  $V_2$  nested with either of the two voltage islands ( $V_1$ ) 105 as required by Applicant's claim.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,  
FOR: Bednar et al.

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